

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
June 6, 2007
Conference Call

Members Present: Jack Corson, President
Gene Hardy, Vice President
Juan Reyes
Jim Mickelson
Joe Thomas
Dave Graham
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture

Members Absent: Patrick Zimmerer
David Largent
Dalin Winters
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office

WDA Staff Present: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary

Called to order by President Corson.

Jim Mickelson asked about the outcome of the question of the terms for the current board. John indicated he would have a meeting with the LSO and Attorney General's office on June 11 and should have the answer by then.

Dave Graham asked if a new member had been found for District 4. John said Jim Bennage may take the appointment. We are currently waiting on the official word.

Jack asked the other members for reaction on the wolf plan. Jim Mickelson said he feels we'd have to live with the decision at this time. Joe Thomas thinks it will be 2-3 years before we know how the plan will really work. John believes the WSGA would be opposed to the plan because they were in favor of the inner line and, as it stands now, the plan calls for the outer line (highway) to be the boundary. Joe says we'll probably live with the plan for about a year. Jack asked what the other member's thoughts were on what is fair compensation for wolves and bears. John said Terry Cleveland is working on a plan for wolves and thinks it will probably be seven to one. There is a current compensation in place for bears. Juan asked what Idaho and Montana are using for compensation. John said he didn't know, but will find out. John explained some about the compensation plan for bears.

John said the Governor will be hosting a Sage Grouse Conference at the end of the month to bring all entities together to discuss solutions to the management of the species. He indicated there is quite a bit of pressure from Washington to list them as endangered. John says there are some areas of the state where the bird is doing fine and others where it is not. He did say to

BLM doesn't have the personnel to keep up with the NEPA process, but are hopeful to be able to keep up with the sage grouse.

John said he will be meeting with John Cora soon regarding air quality. Neither John nor Gene Hardy felt the WSGA had any resolutions regarding the issue.

Jack expressed his concern regarding an article in the Nature Conservancy newsletter where it states John Schiffer is in favor of in-stream flow and also wondered if state funding flows to Nature Conservancy. Jason responded, saying they may have had projects funded by state and federal funds.

Gene had heard there is a plan to create a 48" pipeline to the Platte River for methane water. Juan had questions regarding Carbon Sequestration and it was agreed to have Leanne Stevenson on the next conference call.

Gene said there is a meeting scheduled tomorrow at the fairgrounds in Douglas regarding uranium mining and agreed to report back to the board on the next call.

There being no additional business. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Corson, President

Date